











## POULTRY.

## Poultry Notes.

Where houses are built on a hillside, the water may be piped into them even during winter, if a place is fixed at the lowest part of the hill through which the water can be drawn off every night. A water supply in every house during winter is a great convenience.

A very successful nest for the early setting hen can be made from a barrel laid down flat and facing the wall with room enough for the hen to enter. The front of the nest should be blocked up a little. Nests should never be made so that the hen will need to jump into them.

Farmers who intend to try grading up their fowls with pure-bred males, should remember that there is almost as much difference between strains as between breeds. Try to find a strain that has not been weakened by inbreeding, and possesses in the highest degree, the qualities for which the breed is noted. A cull may be as good as a prize winner for crossing, if he is of the right strain and vigorous.

Every year somebody writes to the poultry editor asking whether it will pay to heat hen houses for layers. The answer is always, no. Hens in a hot house are a lazy, sickly lot. We do not know of a single practical breeder who believes it pays to heat houses for ordinary business hens.

In most hen houses the water fountains will give trouble in winter by occasional freezing. If the fountain is of the jug pattern it may be kept sufficiently warm to prevent freezing by enclosing the main part in a half barrel, so that the mouth part projects from a notch cut from the lower edge. The space around the front is filled with fermenting horse manure. We must say, however, that the manure keg fountains are sometimes troublesome and unpleasant, and upon the whole a doubtful improvement over the method of giving warm water two or three times a day in ordinary dishes.

A splendid food for rapid fattening or egg producing is buckwheat meal mixed with sweet skim-milk. Hens when being fattened should be fed oftener than ordinary, three or four times a day. Fattening coops should be kept rather dark. Old birds, however, that have been kept until this time will be fattened at a loss during cold weather.

For fattening, corn meal, gluten meal, cotton seed meal and a small proportion of bran are the best material. Give fattening fowls plenty of grit. A great many people make the mistake of shutting up fattening fowls in a small coop with smooth floor and no gravel, feed them high and expect them to put on flesh without being furnished with teeth. Might as well put the teeth of a fattening steer as to fail to supply poultry with sharp grit.

The man will do a good service to the broiler business who will get up a bird that is as full-breasted as the Dorking, as yellow-necked as the best strains of Plymouth Rock, as fine-flavored as the Langshan or Game, as rapid growing as a cross-bred and with white pinfeathers. Such a bird would come pretty near perfection, and there is no reason for discouragement in trying to get it. The best qualities of the Dorking and the White Wyandottes combined would come fairly near the mark.

Most of the large poultry growers keep charcoal on hand as a standby along with the bone, oyster shells and grit. Some feed it powdered, mixed with the mash, and some allow the hens to help themselves.

Gluten meal is becoming popular for poultry, because while not an expensive food in proportion to its food value, it is less fattening and contains more egg material than corn meal. Gluten feed is more bulky than gluten meal and is preferred by many breeders. The general composition of the two feeds is much the same.

"The largest flocks and the most thrifty-looking turkeys are found on farms having high, dry land which has a light growth of grass and where a new breeding gobbler has lately been introduced. They generally do best on land where they have not been kept for years. As a rule it is more difficult to raise them each year they have been kept on a place, especially if a large number be grown. Twenty years ago it was easy for any one to raise turkeys. When a place or region is overstocked turkey diseases become prevalent. Many in the East have given up turkey-raising on account of loss from disease, those produced being inferior stock, and on account of Western competition. In turkey-raising, as in producing any other crop, it pays to raise the best."—Samuel Cushman.

One breed is enough for most people. Two breeds make extra work and more than that are a genuine nuisance.

"If your stock is not as good as any on the market, find out the reason and remedy it. If you understand your business there is no necessity of your not having the best grade of poultry produced. There is no better place than right here in Massachusetts to produce it."—W. D. Rudd.

Nothing will make the hens happier on a sunny day than a good dusting box. If no dust has been provided sifted coal ashes are better than nothing.

The standard green food on most poultry farms is cabbage. The soft or poor heads, nearly worthless for market, are good enough. Hang them up by the stump and let the hens jump for them. With plenty of cabbages and plenty of clover hay to be fed steamed, a poultry keeper can get along without other green food. The refuse apples should be fed to the hens and the small potatoes should be boiled up and mixed with the morning mash.

## Pea Fowls.

The pea fowl is good for table use, and is as easy to raise as the turkey. Its great drawback is, the loud noise made by the males. They make good pets and will become very tame. It is necessary to protect the young birds from wet and cold the same as young turkeys.

They live from 20 to 25 years. Their habits are restless and none should be kept if there are near neighbors. They can be restrained somewhat by compelling the male bird to wear upon his leg a cord attached to a block of wood. There is some demand for pea fowl stock from owners of fine estates and park managers. The best way to start is to get some eggs and hatch them under hens.

## The Broiler Fever.

There is an annual slaughter of the innocents on the part of the people who begin the poultry business knowing nothing about it excepting what they have read.

Such persons almost always go into the most difficult branch of the business; that of raising broilers and invest \$500 or \$600 in a house with a superabundance of glass and a costly steam heating plant.

Of late years there is much competition in the broiler business, and a beginner must have ability, to stand a chance of success. There is a better prospect for the average man in producing eggs and poultry for his local markets. But if the beginner has the broiler fever very badly let him bank his money and relieve himself with buying a second-hand incubator, or making one for a few dollars and fixing up his own brooders for a dollar and a half each. A hundred chickens the first year will give him a great deal of experience and may teach him incidentally whether or not he is the right man for the business.

## A Right Start.

Save the best pullets hatched during February, March and April. Push them along fast and they will be ready to lay during October, November and December. If they have plenty of room and are properly fed, there is no reason why their eggs should not be fertile quite early in spring or even in winter. If incubator eggs are desired.

Breeding stock should be given plenty of room while growing in order to give good results. After attaining full growth fowls will stand closer confinement without much injury.

The eggs for setting should be gathered often and not allowed to get chilled. Chilled eggs may occasionally hatch, but the chickens are worthless. Eggs will hatch in winter or early spring as well as at any time if they are of good stock, well fertilized.

## Handling Ducks.

In our experience with the Pekin duck we have found it under more perfect control than any other bird we have ever attempted to handle. We can grow flesh, feathers or bone at will, and under proper conditions can compel her to lay at five months old, and often at four and a half months. Her fecundity is wonderful, surpassing even that of the best breeds of hens, often making a record of one hundred and sixty to one hundred and seventy-five eggs per season.

With proper management and care, the Pekin duck as an egg producer for market is far more profitable than the hen; and though it costs rather more to feed a duck than a hen, yet the greater number of eggs obtained, together with the higher price they command in market, will usually leave the balance in favor of the duck; but we have always thought that the greatest profit in the poultry business was not so much in eggs as in growing young birds for the early market.

When a bird can be grown to tip the scales at five pounds at ten weeks old,

and a price of thirty to thirty-five cents per pound obtained for it, it makes the business very profitable; but this can only be done by making the conditions right for the laying bird. She must have warm quarters, the best of care, generous feed and kind treatment, in order to secure early eggs and fertile ones. To do this, if young birds are desired, they must be hatched early and fed on well balanced rations, to give them time for full development. The birds should be housed in warm quarters before the first of December, placing from thirty to thirty-five together in a pen. Twelve by twenty feet will be large enough, if kept clean, with a yard of corresponding width outside one hundred feet long. This will give the birds room enough to exercise in.

These yards should have good natural drainage, otherwise they will soon become filthy in the extreme. We sweep our yards once each week during the summer. There is no harm in letting the birds out on pleasant days during the winter; snow is no objection, provided the weather is not too cold. They enjoy it hugely, especially during a thaw. The pens inside should be kept dry and free from odors. This is absolutely essential, for though ducks are not as subject to disease as hens, yet they will not thrive in filth.

What the breeder wants is a liberal supply of good, strong, fertile eggs early in the season, eggs that will produce healthy young birds, and turn them out in a condition to live. Too often the health of the young bird is injured by the improper feeding of the mother bird during the laying season. This food should consist of the proper ingredients, and quantity just what the bird will eat clean, and no more. Grit is absolutely necessary, and is one of the essentials. We not only keep it, together with cracked oyster shells in boxes constantly by them, but mix it in their food. They must have something during their confinement during inclement weather to enable them to assimilate their food.

One ingredient which we consider of the greatest importance is green food, which should compose nearly one-fourth of the whole. We have some two acres of rye, eighteen inches high. This is cut three-eighths of an inch long and mixed with the food. When there is prospect of snow we cut large quantities of this in a frozen state and pile it up on the north side of a building. It will not heat in this condition. Should this be used up, and the ground still be covered with snow, we have several tons of fine clover rowen stored for the purpose, which we consider next in value to the rye, so that we are never out of that material for feeding. We also grow about one thousand bushels of turnips, which we steam until they are soft, and mix them in the food. This the birds relish highly.

The first point is to start in with good breeding stock. Birds that have been inbred until their constitutions are completely debilitated, are in no condition for reproduction. Strains that do not begin laying until March or April are more or less unprofitable, because when their young are ready for the knife the best of the spring market is gone, and the grower must take a reduced price for his product. In this, as in many other cases, "the early bird catches the worm."

Of course, to meet with the best success, this business should be conducted by artificial methods, as hens will not set in time to command the high spring prices. When the natural growth product reaches the market, you will find that artificially grown birds have had control of that market for two months or more, and that two months is worth more than all the rest of the season put together.

My formulas for feeding breeding and laying birds, when fertile eggs are desired, is as follows: For breeding birds (old or young, during the fall), feed three parts of wheat bran, one part of Quaker oat feed, five per cent. of beef scrap, five per cent. of grit, and all the green food they will eat in the shape of corn fodder cut fine, clover or alfalfa. Feed this mixture twice a day, all they will eat. For laying birds equal parts of wheat bran and corn meal, twenty per cent. of Quaker oat feed, ten per cent. of boiled potatoes or turnips, fifteen per cent. of clover rowen, green rye or refuse cabbage chopped fine, five per cent. of grit. Feed twice a day all they will eat, with a lunch of corn and oats at noon. Keep grit and ground oyster shells constantly by them. We never cook the food for our ducks after they are a week old, but mix it up with cold water.—James Rankin in Farm Poultry.

How to get first-class prices for first class milk will be shown at the next Ploughman Farmers' Meeting.

FOR SALE—Bull calf, traces 7 times to Combination and has 50 per cent of his blood. Solid color. Dropped Nov. 30, 1897. Sire, Min. sire of 3 in 14 lbs. 1897. Diploma, sire of 34 tested cows. Dam, Brown Bessie 13th of Hood Farm, by Brown Bessie's Son. Second dam, Plumage, 17 lbs. 6 oz., by Diploma. Write for price.

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## APIARY.

## The Sense of Property Rights in Bees.

That bees have a sense of property rights is shown through their actions in defending their stores from plundering swarms. Bee-robbing usually takes place when there is little nectar to be taken from flowers, and probably hunger incites to ill-gotten gain. It is interesting to note that strong colonies are seldom attacked, the weaker ones being the victims. The fury with which the owners of the honey will fight for its retention is sufficient, when once seen, to convince any doubter that bees, at least, have a sense of property. When the robbed swarm is overcome and the queen killed, the bees will desert and join the robbers, and help carry their own stores to the hive of the marauders. This shows that it is a matter of property and not individual animosity which inspires them, otherwise they would fight to the death. Bee-hunters say that when taking up a bee-tree, or a beehive for that matter, the bees will fight furiously until their comb is actually broken; then they give up, and, defeated and despairing, cluster on the broken comb, making no further effort to save themselves. There is something touching in the story of these brave little defenders of stores and home, and their utter discouragement when they see their treasure broken and ruined. "Taking up" bee-trees and beehives is a barbarous performance and does not redound to the honor of man, and the thought of it quite reconciles one to all of the bee-stings inflicted upon the genus homo since time began.—The Chautauquan.

## More About Bees in Winter.

When thin hives are used for wintering bees a great amount of moisture is produced inside of the hive by the bees; this settles on the inside of the hives and consequently freezes into ice. This ice of course melts in warm weather. This explains the cause of the water frequently seen running out of the hives and down over the bottom board at such times.

In thoroughly packed chaff hives this does not occur from the fact that the bees do not consume near the amount of honey, hence do not produce as much moisture, and the thick walls of the chaff hives retain the heat of the bees to such an extent, that no freezing occurs, and the moisture is absorbed by the chaff, and the result is dry hives.

Moisture thus produced in the hive contaminates the honey and renders it unhealthy, and it is of great importance to prevent it by good protection in winter.

## BEES COMING OUT ON THE SNOW.

Very rarely should bees fly while snow is on the ground. It will seldom occur, and only when bees have been confined in the hives for a great length of time.

Snow is almost sure death to bees when they light on it, and only prove otherwise when the atmosphere is warming very rapidly.

When the snow is on the ground and the weather changing warm, the snow should be removed from about the hives, but only at a time when the bees are liable to fly; it should be well cleaned from the alighting place in front of the hive, so that the alighting place proper may dry off and warm up.

Bees may be, and should be, prevented from coming out of the hives while snow is on the ground, and may be done by thoroughly shading the hives, and shoveling snow against the entrance. Shading may of itself prevent it, and used only when it will answer the purpose. Leaning a board against the south side of the hive in some cases will answer, and using a tight box over the entrance, which will thoroughly darken the same, will always prevent their coming out. Care must be taken not to close the entrance proper to the hive, or a stampede may take place and the bees may be suffocated and killed.—A. H. Duff in the Western Rural.

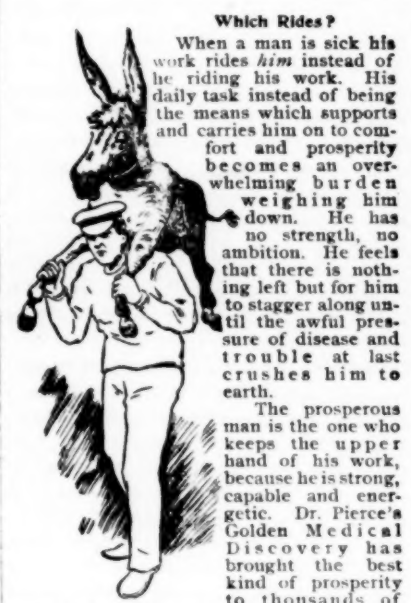
## The Evolution Farmer.

He is a well balanced combination of actions and ideas, and when he begins work in the spring, can make a tolerably close approximation of what the profits will be in the fall. He leaves nothing to chance, and wastes little time in studying weather prognostications and probabilities. His ancestors planted by "signs" and "prevailing winds" and "phases of the moon"; he is more practical, and while he makes shrewd forecasts for a few hours or days ahead, prefers to keep his work steadily advancing, as though all weather and conditions would work to his end.

And each year makes him more independent of atmospheric influences; his wet land is thoroughly drained, and his dry land is plowed and cultivated until it takes advantage of every particle of moisture possible. His grandfather planted without much regard to soils or rotation of crops; he makes a

close study of both, and whether the season be wet or dry, rarely loses a harvest on either his hillside or well-drained bottom lands. Each crop is given the best possible conditions of growth, in the way of seed, soil, location and cultivation; and each crop is watched over with the intelligence that turns everything favorable to its advantage. A dry hillside, a rich bottom or a cold, wet swale is each in its way peculiarly adapted to some certain crop; and the evolution farmer knows it, and humors it, and in the end reaps the rich and abundant harvest of his sagacity.

In a way, he is a man of theories, but the theories accompany practice, and in no way antagonize results. The end is the justification of means, and whatever tends to its increase, or to smooth the way to its accomplishment, is certain of his sympathy. Improvement that broadens or hastens results, or simplifies complex methods, meet his approval; for with him an hour saved is far more than a mere hour earned. He might be called a practical theorist, but more than that, he is the true philanthropist, whose energy is expended in advancing and perfecting his own improvements. No matter how well drained or highly cultivated his fields, or how choice his orchards and vine yards, he is always longing and aiming for something better in the future. He is interested in the work of the entire county, and he plants shade trees along the public roads and stocks his brooks with trout and practically illustrates his theory of timber planting, and it is of little moment to him that others will reap more benefit from his improvements than he will himself. He believes in his own work, and the very confidence of his belief is an insurance of success. Little by little the neighborhood is drawn into his way of thinking, and his belief becomes the community's belief, and his success the community's success. Private improvements become public improvements, and everywhere, about the farms and on the public roads and even in the town, may be seen evidences of the evolution farmer—who may aptly be termed the revolution farmer.—Frank H. Sweet in Farming World.



When a man is sick his work rides him instead of him riding his work. His daily task instead of being the means which supports and carries him on to comfort and prosperity becomes an overwhelming burden weighing him down. He has no strength, no ambition. He feels that there is nothing left but for him to stagger along until the awful pressure of disease and trouble at last crushes him to earth.

The prosperous man is the one who keeps the upper hand of his work, because he is strong, capable and energetic.

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No remedy relieves constipation so quickly and effectively as Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets.

THE NEXT

Mass. Ploughman

Farmers' Meeting

WILL BE HELD

Saturday, February 12, 1898.

Place—Wesleyan Hall, 38 Bromfield St.

Time—10 o'clock.

Essayist—George H. Ellis of Newton Center, Mass.

Subject—The Production of Milk for a First Class Market.

Everyone Freely Welcomed.

See announcement in Editorial Column.

FERTILIZERS.

Farmers making their own fertilizer, or those desirous of doing so, please apply to the Merriam Chemical Company, 18 Pearl St., Boston, Mass. Manufacturers and Importers, for price of Acid and other materials needed.

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(of various sizes and different makes. These machines are in first class condition, having just come from the repair shop. Address

P. O. BOX 856, Philadelphia, Pa.

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On or before April first, as working farm manager, age 37, by a sober, industrious Protestant; thoroughly understands farming, the care of stock, vegetable gardening and poultry; capable of handling men. Wife good housekeeper and dairy woman. Small family. References. Address stating full particulars, G. Mass. Ploughman office.

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can be raised at a profit, and the yield enlarged, if properly fertilized. Most fertilizers do not contain enough

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This book gives the result of 17 years' experiment work on the Rural Grounds. How to In

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# MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

BOSTON, FEBRUARY 12, 1898.

Persons desiring a change in the address of their paper must state where the paper has been sent as well as the new direction.

## MASS. PLOUGHMAN FARMERS' MEETING

Saturday, February 12, 1898, 10 A. M.

ESSAY BY GEORGE H. ELLIS of West Newton, Mass. Subject, The Production of Milk for a First Class Market.

The next MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN Farmers' Meeting will be held at Wesleyan Hall, 36 Bromfield St., Saturday morning, February 12, 1898, beginning at ten o'clock. Mr. George H. Ellis of West Newton, Mass., will speak on the Production of Milk for a First Class Market.

Mr. Ellis is well known throughout New England as one who has been able to build up a dairy business which supplies the best class of trade, and is wholly independent of milk contractors and the regular scale of prices. The product of his farms commands the highest prices and justly so, for his patrons are willing to pay well for the quality and reliability of his dairy products. He has consented to tell the farmers who attend the PLOUGHMAN Farmers' Meeting his experience in the production of milk for a high class market and it will be of especial importance and interest at this time when so much is being said as to the purity and quality of the milk furnished by New England dairymen and the low price received for milk has caused so much agitation. The PLOUGHMAN invites all who are interested in the subject to be present and offers them a cordial welcome.

The farm account book stirs the wits, and saves the purse.

Love your farm and it will smile back at harvest time.

The successful man thanks himself, but the chronic failure blames his luck.

Next year you will wonder how you could have been such a fool this year.

The man who knows how to get a good income out of the land need not envy anybody.

Dairying in connection with grain growing makes a good home market for the crop.

Some milk farmers think they can better afford to lose their hay barn than their silo.

Many a man who knows what is good farming is too lazy to do much with his knowledge.

The heavy snow fall is something of a nuisance just now, but it is good for the small fruits and the mowings.

A successful dairyman is a relative of the lark and gets up early about three hundred and sixty-five days in a year.

Study what the majority of people want to eat. The men who find that out first and supply it are the ones who get rich.

The calf from a good mother may make a good cow, but the calf with two good grandmothers will be quite sure to turn out well.

Some farmers who are very careful to study up balanced rations for their stock, will allow their children at school to feed largely on cakes, pies and pickles.

In these days of tuberculosis and sanitary measures in the stock barn, veterinarians are doing very well. Probably their income averages better than that of the M. D's.

Farmers who work alone all winter are likely to get a little narrow and one-sided. A trip to the city and to the farmers' meetings once in a while will stir them up and do them good.

Thousands of city folks came out to the country last summer for a change and rest. If the farmers would return their compliment this winter and spend a little time in the city, the result would be equally beneficial.

Slack's hole in the roof still continues to let the rain into his barn, and his cows and horses have endless fits of sneezing over the musty hay. Slack never thinks of repairing it except when it is raining through the hole, and then the roof is too lippy to work upon.

The most hopeful sign of better things to come on a milk or dairy farm is when the owner begins to get better cows. He will feed them better than he would poor cows, he will raise more stuff, make better manure, sell more milk and butter, take more pride in his occupation, and both farm and farmer will grow richer.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven Catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hood's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address: F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c.

## CURRENT TOPICS.

All likelihood of Japanese opposition to the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands by the United States has been removed by the conclusion of an agreement between our government and Japan through its minister, which grants to the Japanese in Hawaii equal rights with those in the United States after the treaty with Japan takes effect in July, 1899. The treaty gives to the Japanese all the rights conferred upon the citizens of the most favored nation, which carries with it the rights of naturalization and the exercise of the rights of franchise.

The increase in the number of large vessels being built for our navy makes the enlargement of our dry dock facilities an urgent matter, and the subject is receiving much attention. It is fully decided that some provision must be made, but the question arises, which location shall be decided upon. The claims of many different sections are being warmly pressed, New England being represented by the Charlestown navy yard and Kittery, while New York, Norfolk, Newport News, New Orleans, Tortugas, San Francisco and other locations are proposed by their friends. It is probable that additional dock facilities will be given to both Kittery and Charlestown.

Common folk have always been of the opinion that our earth was content with the possession of one moon, but astronomers have long suspected that there was still a second body which owed allegiance to our planet. There has been noted a small but constant acceleration of the motion of the moon, the cause of which has, until lately, been unexplained. It is now announced that this acceleration of motion is caused by a second tiny moon which revolves around the earth at 2.7 times the distance of the large moon, the latter being 123 times as large as its small neighbor. Some spots which have appeared upon the sun, hitherto unexplainable, are said to have been caused by the attempts of the ambitious little moon to eclipse the brilliancy of the sun.

Representatives of the English government now claim that there was no back-biting on the part of Great Britain on the Chinese question, that the opening of Tien-Tsin was not made a condition, and that England stands firm in her position as to equal commercial rights in China. England has no desire to acquire any Chinese territory but intends simply to make sure that her treaty rights, involving large commercial interests, are fully protected. Late dispatches report that China will probably not accept the British proposition of a loan, being led to make this decision through Russian influence. On the other hand, owing to England's opposition, the Chinese government will be unable to accept the Russian offer, and is indulging in the hope that Japan will be satisfied with the payment of the war indemnity in instalments.

Meanwhile in England, the sentiment is strongly in favor of a decisive stand by Great Britain on the Chinese question. Lord Salisbury's somewhat vacillating policy has awakened much dissatisfaction which has not hesitated to express itself strongly. The trade between Great Britain and China amounts to about \$50,000,000 annually, and it is of the utmost importance that this trade shall not be interfered with by any hostile power.

The severe storm which visited this section last week has proved disastrous in its results, and as soon as communication with the outside world was once established, tales of distress, loss and disaster came drifting in. The direct money loss caused by suspension of business, delay in mails and railway travel, the destruction of telegraph and telephone wires, as well as the cost of removing the snow figured up to a large total. But this was forgotten when the distressing stories of disaster upon the sea were told. In Massachusetts Bay, alone, thirty-seven schooners and other vessels were totally wrecked or badly injured, and the loss of life was large, whole crews being lost. The shipping all along the New England coast suffered in the same ratio. In addition to the many fires in the city which were caused by the disabling of the electric wires, and the greater loss occasioned by the fire alarm system not working, the electric signal systems on the railroads were almost totally disabled, and this caused two railroad accidents almost within the city limits. The first and most serious occurred at Winter Hill on the Boston & Maine R. R., when an express train ran into a local standing at the station. Forty or fifty persons were injured but none fatally. The second was similar in character and occurred on the Fitchburg, four people being injured.

A disastrous fire occurred last Saturday in Boston, which roused the public sympathy, not on account of the money loss but because of the fact that six brave firemen lost their lives and four others were badly injured. The building in which the fire occurred was an old one, originally a church, and used afterward for various purposes. At the time of the fire it was used for a manufactory of beds and mattresses and the heavy nature of the goods made still heavier by the weight of the water used in putting out the fire, together with the weight of the snow on the roof, caused the giving way of the floor beams, sending downward the large force of firemen fighting the fire from the inside of the building. Although willing hands were many to clear away the debris from above the imprisoned firemen, it was an hour or more before they were reached, and six were taken out dead or dying, and four very seriously injured. Of the

six who lost their lives, Assistant Chief John Egan was the best known, by reason of his daring service in the fire department, and many narrow escapes from death in the fires in the conquest of which he has borne so large a part. At the Lincoln St. fire five years ago, he escaped a fearful death only by means of a telephone wire which stretched across the street by which he made his way out of a burning building holding on by his hands. The sacrifice of these lives may lead to a more vigorous examination of the buildings standing in the city, with regard to their safety and adaptability to the purposes for which they are used. There are many old buildings in the city which were built before the present building laws were in force, and their condition will bear looking into.

## Literary Notes.

The very readable series of papers which Edward Everett Hale is writing for THE OUTLOOK continues to grow in interest. That printed in the February Magazine Number deals with Lowell's life and friendships in college, and contains some examples of his poetic work when he was one of the editors of "Harvardiana." Dr. Hale in this installment tells the true story of Lowell's suspension from college just before graduation, about which for many years absurd and absolutely unfounded stories have been circulated. The true cause of the suspension was simply and solely young Lowell's lack of regularity in the attendance upon the college chapel exercises. (\$3 a year THE OUTLOOK Company, 13 Astor Place, New York.)

## Washington News.

It seems that the fruit export interests of the United States are likely to be seriously threatened by the recent action of Germany in throwing out all American fruit imports. This action is causing a good deal of comment here, especially among officials of the Agricultural Department, where considerable effort has been made to enlarge our foreign market with the purpose of finding a ready and profitable sale abroad for our surplus agricultural products. The importance of the foreign market is two fold; to provide a place for this surplus product, and thus to keep our home market from being flooded and broken. The further information that sundry ominous threats have been made by German officials against the importation of American horses, claiming as a reason for their proposed exclusion that they are affected with influenza and thus a source of danger to German breeders, calls forth expressions of opinion from people here well qualified to speak on the subject.

In their prejudice Germany is simply seeking a pretext to discriminate against American agricultural products, both in a retaliatory sense, in view of the action of the United States in placing an extra duty on German bounty-paid beet sugar, and further in an endeavor to protect the German home market against American invasion, now recognized as a force which is likely to affect the prosperity of the German farmers.

Germany, on the other hand, is becoming an important market for American farmers and fruit-growers, and the excellence of the American product is so well recognized that the German agrarians view with alarm the inroads of our exporters into their home market. The recent exclusion of all American fruit, fresh and dried and all nursery stock, under the claim that such products are infested with vermin and will do serious injury to the trees and fruit of Germany, is clearly a violation of treaty rights, as the products so excluded were not even examined by the German officials to ascertain whether they were infested as claimed. In point of fact they were not so infested. In the case of the exclusion of dried fruit on the charge that it contained a percentage of zinc from the evaporators used in the United States, the German evaporators being provided with wood trays, it was soon discovered that the evaporators used in Germany were provided with zinc trays similar to those used in this country.

The immediate effect of the issuance of the decree was that 16,000 barrels of apples were prevented from being unloaded at Hamburg, and two trainloads of American fresh fruit were forbidden to cross the frontier. Of course it is conceded that Germany has a right to establish a quarantine and exclude all American or other fruit shown to be diseased or vermin infested, but in this instance no examination whatever was made. The subject is one for a thorough investigation by the officials of this Government. This discrimination against American apples is claimed by the people of the Department of Agriculture to be entirely uncalled for. Speaking of this Mr. Brackett, the Chief of the Pomological Division said:

"The Germans claimed that the exclusion was made to prevent the introduction of the San Jose scale into Germany, the statement being made that this pest was brought into Germany through the shipments of California fruit. As a matter of fact, practically no apples are exported from California, and no apples shipped from there are in barrels. They pack their apples in boxes. There could then be no valid reason for excluding the

## Constipation

Causes fully half the sickness in the world. It retards the digested food too long in the bowels and produces biliousness, torpid liver, indigestion, bad taste, coated tongue, sick headache, insomnia, etc. Hood's Pills cure constipation and all its results, easily and thoroughly. See All Druggists. Prepared by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass. The only Pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

## A WOMAN'S SUFFERINGS.

Some of the Agonies They Needlessly Endure.

Nervousness and Female Weaknesses Ruin Many Lives.

These Poor Sufferers Have Found a Sure Way to Get Well.

Female weaknesses are more common today than ever before. Constant work and worry weaken the nerves and vitality, and female weakness follows. As a result there is pain, discharges, suppression, irregularities, weak back, inflammation, bearing down, bad taste in the mouth, loss of appetite, faintness, constipation, nervousness, sleeplessness, and irritability. Mrs. S. Taylor, of 251 West 17th St., New York City, says:

"For years I have been unable to attend to my household duties owing to severe sickness. I was troubled terribly with female weakness, suppression of the menses for over six years, nervous exhaustion, sleeplessness and general debility. I had coldness of limbs and feet, and was in a helpless condition. I feared I should never get well."

I had been under a doctor's care all the time but got no better. I was utterly prostrated and good for nothing. By the advice of a friend who was cured by Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy, I began using this wonderful medicine. After taking it a short time I was completely cured of all my troubles. My nerve strength returned, my female weakness entirely left me, my nervousness disappeared, I slept well and was in perfect health. For this blessing I have to thank Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy. It is a wonderful medicine."

Such testimonials as these are always the means of curing thousands of suffering women who are wise enough to accept the advice of those who have been cured. Countless numbers of people all over the land have regained their health by this wonderful remedy, and are crying out to their fellow creatures to take Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy, and be made well and strong. It is not a patent medicine, but the prescription of the most successful physician, Dr. Greene, of 34 Temple Place, Boston, Mass., who can be consulted free, personally or by letter.

16,000 barrels of apples shipped in a package never used by the California growers on the claim that they were affected California fruit. The amount of the matter is," continued Mr. Brackett, "the Germans realize that our growers and farmers are stealing away their markets from them, and they hope by this discrimination against us to discourage our shipments and so save their home market. Our apple market in Germany has grown very largely in the past year and while shipments there are not yet large, the German field is most promising to American fruit of all kinds. It would be a pity if this should be shut off. Our winter apples have given very great satisfaction and are vastly superior to the native fruit. The prices realized by American growers are good. Hamburg market quotations for December show Ben Davis, Baldwin, Pippin, York Imperial, Russets and Kings ranging from \$5.10 to \$5.24 per barrel. There is work here for our officials both at home and abroad in demanding that no unjust discriminations be made against American products. The closing of our market in Germany for apples would affect most particularly the Southern Atlantic and Mississippi Valley apple belt, where the Ben Davis is largely grown."

Major Alvord, the chief of the Dairying Division, has recently returned from a short trip in New England, visiting Massachusetts and Connecticut. A couple of months ago Major Alvord made a trip into Maine and New Hampshire, looking into the dairying interests of those states. He reports the country "down east" in a more than usually prosperous condition among the farmers. Men are making improvements and spending more money than usual. In response to an inquiry as to the prospects for widening the market for cheese, he said:

"I am sorry to have to say it, but Canada has all the advantage in cheese. We let her take the market and I am afraid we shall never get it back; at least, not soon. Our best American cheese is now shipped across the border and sold at an advance price as Canadian cheese. They have the name now for fine quality cheese. We are going to attempt something here at the Department next year however, in the line of regaining some prestige in this matter for the American dairyman."

The St. Croix River is completely closed to navigation for the first time in ten years. A number of tugboats have been disabled in trying to break the ice, and there are a number of vessels frozen in.

The agricultural appropriations bill including the provision for free seeds distribution was passed in the National senate, but the house disagreed on irrigation amendments made in the senate, and referred it to a conference committee.

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## Beacon Hill Notes.

The bill for the special appropriation for the Gypsy Moth Commission work has been signed by the governor and the regular appropriation will be passed upon later.

The committee on agriculture intends to make an investigation in regard to the work done towards the extermination of the gypsy moth, and an order has been introduced and adopted in the house authorizing the committee to travel and send for persons and papers, thus giving them power to send for such residents of the infested districts whom they wish to hear from.

A hearing was given by the committee on Tuesday in regard to the peach yellow bill which has excited considerable opposition among some of the peach growers of the state.

The committee on agriculture gave a hearing this week on the Bennett bill for an appropriation of \$50,000 for expenses in connection with the suppression of contagious diseases among cattle, horses, etc. The bill was introduced by Representative Bennett of Saugus for the purpose of bringing the subject of tuberculosis before the committee on agriculture, and the amount named in the bill was of no special significance. The cattle commissioners ask for \$150,000, and Dr. Austin Peters, chairman of the cattle commissioners, briefly outlined the work of the board, and the necessity of the amount asked for. There was some discussion by Chairman Barker of the committee, Mr. Bennett of Saugus and Mr. Parker of Holden, relative to the matter of compensation and the advisability of reducing the amount of compensation paid by the State, from the full amount to two-thirds or even one-half of the value of the animal. L. F. Herrick of Worcester, testified to the advisability of revising the section of the law relative to compensation. The condition of the animal at the time it was condemned should be taken into consideration when fixing the value of the same, he thought. Mr. Herrick thought that the Massachusetts law should be modified to conform to the United States law relative to the condemnation of meat from alleged diseased animals. There were many carcasses thrown away which were only slightly infected, and not in any way affected with general tuberculosis, that were perfectly safe and sound and healthy for food purposes. Mr. Herrick spoke of the decrease in the amount of general tuberculosis found. In 1895 the amount of general tuberculosis was 32.6 per cent, in 1896 it was 25.1 per cent and in 1897 but 3.61 per cent of general tuberculosis was found. Mr. Herrick also stated that of 9991 animals quarantined during the year, 5250 had been condemned and killed, and for these animals the State had received \$5217.19; this included the hides.

## The World Over.

—England still insists on equality of trade in China.

—Present session of Canadian Parliament expected to take steps toward a navy.

—A Montreal editor was assessed damages under the libel law for using irony and sarcasm.

—English Conservatives view with trepidation the approaching session of Parliament.

—Owing to renewed objections from France, the sugar bounty conference, which was announced to begin Feb. 15 at Brussels, has been indefinitely postponed.

—The London Gazette announces the appointment of a royal commission, headed by their royal highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, to secure adequate British representation at the Paris exhibition in 1900.

—An almost perfect fresco, painted by Domenico del Chariandigo, the illustrious Florentine painter, has been discovered in the Church of San Salvador d'Ognissanti, in Florence. Among the figures is a portrait of Amerigo Vesputi.

—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Times says: "A failure in the harvest has caused terrible distress among the peasantry of the interior provinces, especially in central and southern Russia. In some places they are worse off than during the famine of 1891. The Russian editors have been forbidden to refer to the matter. Private letters from Tamboff, in the province of that name, southeast of Moscow, say the peasants are feeding their half-starved cattle with the thatches of their roofs. Typhus and other diseases are making rapid headway among them."

## Read and Run.

—Smallpox is spreading in the South.

—The Southern war claims aggregate nearly \$10,000,000.

—A woman's hotel has been projected in New York city.

—The old soldiers of the Legislature are to have their reunion on Wednesday Feb. 16.

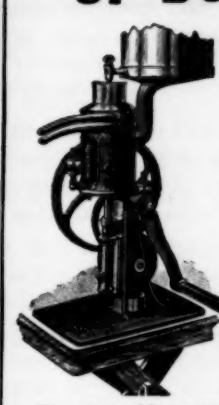
—Joseph P. Smith, director of the Bureau of American Republics, has just died in Florida.

—The Japanese are to have full citizenship rights in the United States under the treaty to go into effect July 1, 1899.

—Warrants have been issued for seventy-three members of the mob who burned Indians at the stake in Oklahoma.

—H. E. Rand of Boston, who was arrested in Houlton, Me., on the charge of smuggling eight sheep which he had purchased from a farmer living on the line between Maine and New Brunswick,

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and was discharged at the hearing in Bangor before the United States Commissioner has signified his intention to bring suit against the United States Government for false imprisonment. Rand places the damages at \$25,000. He says he was obliged to send out in order to get suitable food, and that the cell in which he was confined was filthy with vermin.

The annual report of the Maine cattle commissioners shows that during the year just closed 287 farms and 65 stables were visited by the commissioners, 415 head of cattle destroyed at an appraisal of \$18,122, and 28 horses condemned, at an appraisal of \$1,085. The appraisals of the year exceeded those of the two previous years combined by more than \$6,000. The commissioners renew their appeal for more funds with which to carry on their work. Referring to the constant outflow of Maine cattle to the Brighton market, the commissioners say: "The depletion from our dairy herds of many of their best cows for export to Brighton market still continues. The good reputation of Maine cattle renders the business profitable to many of our drovers."

There are many who are possessed of musical talent and a desire to cultivate it, who lack the means to do so. To help these to a realization of their desires, a Benevolent Society is connected with the New England Conservatory of Music, whose aim is to help worthy and talented young men and women in obtaining a musical education. The society is composed of some of the most philanthropic men and women of Boston, whose names are well known in connection with all good works. The society assists the students by making loans, to be repaid as soon as convenient. One method of increasing the fund for the purpose was successfully inaugurated last year and is to be tried again this season. This is a series of subscription concerts by the advanced pupils of the Conservatory, given in Steinert Hall, corner of Carver and Boylston streets. The first one was held on the afternoon of February 7, and gave good evidence of the work being done at the Conservatory in training musical talent. Selections from the works of Beethoven, St. Saens, Haydn, Brahms

## Country Real Estate

A parcel of farm property on Moose Hill, Sharon, belonging to F. E. Burbank, has been sold to F. E. Cole of Boston for a residence.

A large dairy farm in South Royalton, Vt., has been sold by Mrs. Nelson Hunt to W. A. Sanborn of Boston, who buys for a summer residence.

The Charles S. Emmerton farm, at Proctor's Crossing, has been sold to a New York man, who buys for a residence. There are about thirty acres of rich land, twenty acres of which were reclaimed by Mr. Emmerton. Included in the sale were the dwelling-house, barns, silo, cider mill, etc. The price paid was about \$15,000. It is taxed for \$7,500.

NEITHER the largest crops nor the smallest crops pay best for the time and money invested. The yield which takes the prize and the one which is called a failure are both likely to cost more than they return. The thing to be proud of is not to have beaten all the neighbors in amount produced but to have made the greatest net profit over cost.

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## THE HOUSEHOLD.

A DIALOGUE IN FEBRUARY.

BY LOUISE CHANDLER MOULTON.

"Good morning, little maiden.  
The day is bright," said he.  
"Good morning, little gentleman.  
The month is cold," said she.

"Will you come and seek it  
Beneath the snow?" said he.  
"I'll rather wait till May-time,  
When snow is gone," said she.

"But all the lads and lasses  
Can find the snow," said he.  
"Some other shyer blossom  
Were best for you and me."

"Will you not come and seek it?  
Since spring is nigh?" said he.  
"I think I'll let you bring me  
What you can find," said she.

"There is a gentle messenger,  
St. Valentine," said he.  
"I'll send him with the blossoms,  
If you will smile on me."

"The saint of all true lovers,  
You'll welcome him," said he.  
"Perchance he'll cheat the winter,  
And bring the spring to May-time."  
—From In Childhood's Country.

## COUSIN MARCIA'S VALENTINE.

Franklin Hoppin thought his cousin Marcia was the very prettiest and cleverest girl in all East Roseboro, and he was not far from being right.

She was certainly pretty. Her eyes were bright and sparkling, and when she smiled—which was about every two minutes—she showed teeth which were small and even and milky white as pearls.

In school she was conceded to be the "smartest" girl in a class, though she was only fifteen years old. Some members of her class were two years older and a head taller than she.

Marcia would demonstrate a problem in arithmetic with a glibness that filled the dull-witted ones with admiration, amounting almost to awe and veneration. One of her compositions, "A Crisis in the Nation," had been published in the East Roseboro Gazette, over her full name, Marcia Deborah Hoppin.

But Marcia was good-natured and kind, as well as clever. She would often help the dunces of the school with the problem he brought despairingly to her, and she explained them in a way which did not in the least suggest condescension or conscious merit. She was born with a taste for "figuring"—that was all; she did not feel that there was any particular virtue in herself about the matter. Besides, she really liked to help others.

Franklin was bright, too, and he was not so far behind his cousin in the class. But he was not so good as Marcia—he had a hasty temper. When he became angry, the boys used to say he was "Hoppin mad."

Franklin had another bad habit—he didn't like to get up early in the morning.

He lived on a farm, so that there were many little chores for him to do before he went to school. If he did not rise early, he would be late for school or leave some of his chores undone.

"Franklin!" called his sister Jennie, one cold morning in February.

"All right," said Franklin, snuggling under the bed clothes and making no motion to get up.

Five minutes passed.

"Franklin Hoppin, why don't you get up? Father's beginning to look black."

"I'm coming," Franklin answered, crossly, and in two minutes he was fast asleep again.

He woke up suddenly, choking and gasping for breath. Jennie had copiously sprinkled his face with ice-cold water from a dipper she held in her hand. Jennie retreated, laughing. She knew that Franklin was very angry, and she sought safety in flight.

"Father told me to," she called out up the stairway, her voice shaking with laughter. "It isn't my fault. I had to do what he said."

Franklin answered nothing. He was white with anger.

"I'll pay you for this, Miss Jennie," he muttered to himself.

At the first opportunity he gave Jennie's ears two or three sharp cuffs that brought the tears to her eyes. Their father happened to come into the kitchen at that moment.

"Franklin, let Jennie alone!" he said, sternly. "She only did what I told her to do. To-morrow if you don't get up when you're called, it shall be a whole dipperful of water."

Franklin knew that his father always meant what he said, so he rose with exemplary promptness after that. But he had not quite forgiven Jennie, and he meant to "pay her back" in some way.

The thirteenth of February came, and he had not yet paid her back. Then a bright idea occurred to him. He would send her one of those cheap caricatures, crude in color and worse in rhyme, called "Comic Valentines," which were displayed in great profusion in the village store window. He would put it into a thick, square envelope, and Jennie would imagine it a valentine with silk fringe.

"Just the thing!" he said to himself, though his conscience was not quite at ease. "Next time she'll think twice before pouring water on my face."

He had already bought one with fringe for his Cousin Marcia. There was a pink-cheeked, smiling girl's face on it, which Franklin fondly imagined looked like Marcia.

At five o'clock the next day, Jennie came home from school in a gentle flutter of excitement. She had stepped into the post office on her way, and she held tightly in her hand a thick, creamy envelope.

"I think it's a Valentine," she announced, triumphantly, to Franklin who stared hard at his boots and tried to appear unconcerned.

He was beginning to feel heartily ashamed of himself, and did not care half so much as he had thought to see his sister's smiling eyes change to tearful ones. It would be a very cheap revenge, after all.

"Just like a girl, not to open it and see!" he exclaimed, impatiently.

Franklin wanted to "get the thing over with," as he phrased it.

Jennie got a pair of sharp scissors, and slowly cut the end of the envelope, taking good care not to snip off too much, less its precious contents should be touched.

"Oh, my, how pretty it is!" she exclaimed, as she drew it out. "Why, Franklin, it's the one you had in the top drawer of your bureau for over a week! Oh, you good, good boy! I was sure you meant to give it to Cousin Marcia."

Jennie threw her arms impulsively round Franklin's neck, and gave him a grateful, sisterly hug.

"I'm sorry I sprinkled that water on you," she said, penitently. "Perhaps father wouldn't have made me do it if I'd only said I didn't like to."

Franklin looked dazed, and took his sister's caresses very passively.

He had made a big blunder, and perhaps even now his Cousin Marcia was opening the other Valentine! He had not disguised his handwriting, as he had done on the envelope Jennie held in her hand, for he had intended to leave his sister in doubt as to who had sent the caricature. What would Marcia think of him?

"Have you been rummaging about in my bureau drawers?" he asked, gruffly. He felt nervous and harassed, and turned to vent his displeasure on the person nearest—poor Jennie, as usual. "How often have I told you not to?"

"I only wanted to put some of your Sunday collars there," Jennie explained, looking slightly aggrieved, as she certainly had a right to look. "I couldn't help seeing it, for it was lying right on top of your handkerchiefs. I used to take a peek at it every day, after I found it was there, and wished it was mine. I didn't know it was for me, or of course I wouldn't have glanced at it again. It's very pretty! Did you give Cousin Marcia one, too? You know you said you were going to."

"Yes," groaned Franklin.

"I don't believe it's any prettier than mine," said Jennie, with gentle elation. "Do you think it is, Franklin?" she asked, anxiously.

"No, I don't," replied poor Franklin, desperately. "It isn't half so pretty. Say, Jennie, did—did Marcia go into the postoffice with you?"

"No. She was in a hurry to get home. She said she didn't expect any Valentines, anyway."

Franklin breathed a sigh of relief. Perhaps it wasn't too late to get it back, even yet, and destroy it. If he only hadn't confessed to Jennie that he had sent it!

She would ask Marcia about it, and they would wonder if it had been lost. Perhaps Marcia would ask the postmistress to hunt for it. His cousin would surely find out then that he had taken it out himself. But never mind—something certainly must be done, and at once, to prevent Marcia from getting possession of that miserable Valentine.

When our disturbed Franklin drew near the postoffice the early February dusk was slowly creeping over the quiet village streets. Some one was tripping along lightly and swiftly before him. It was his Cousin Marcia!

Franklin grew dizzy with suspense and anxiety. How should he prevent Marcia from going into the postoffice? "Marcia!" he called out, desperately. "Cousin Marcia, wait a second!"

Marcia turned round, smiling.

"Oh, it's you, Franklin," she said, pleasantly. "I didn't see you."

"Where—where are you going?" faltered Franklin.

"To the postoffice," answered Marcia. "Mrs. Finch says there's a letter for me. It may be a Valentine, you know."

"I don't believe there's any Valentine for you," said Franklin bluntly.

Marcia laughed.

"I don't know why not," she insisted. "To be sure, I've never had one; but that's no reason I never shall. Perhaps it's only a letter, then, if you are so sure it's not a Valentine. Are you coming in?"

"No-o," declined Franklin. "I've got to go right home."

"I'll be right out again," Marcia rejoined. "Don't run away. If it's a Valentine, I'll let you see it."

She was back in a minute, though it seemed like a half-hour to Franklin. "It is a Valentine, I'm sure," she declared, in a tone of elation. "The envelope is too large and pretty for an ordinary letter. You are a false prophet, after all, Cousin Franklin."

"Why don't you open it and see?" asked Franklin, yielding gloomily to the inevitable.

Marcia looked at him in surprise.

"What's the matter, Franklin?" she asked. "You seem to be 'down in the depths.' You haven't done anything that disturbs your conscience, I hope?" she added, gravely.

Marcia could be wonderfully serious at times, notwithstanding her frequent and merry laughter.

"No," said Franklin. "That is to say—yes, I have! Look here, Marcia, you'd better tear up that Valentine. I sent it, and—it was a mistake. I didn't mean it for you!"

"Oh, of course, if you meant it for some one else!"

Marcia held out the envelope with a little laugh, which she tried in vain to make light and unbecoming; but she felt slightly hurt, for Marcia, sensible girl though she was, was not above a little natural pique.

"Why should I tear it up?" she asked. "It isn't too late to correct your mistake, is it?"

"I'd better tell you all about it, I think," said Franklin, in despair. "It's a comic Valentine. It was for Jennie; but I got it into your envelope, somehow. I'm awfully sorry—I am, honestly; but I'll get you another one, to-morrow."

"Thank you!" said Marcia, quietly. She felt like breaking into a peal of laughter, when she saw Franklin's woe-begone face; but he seemed genuinely distressed, and she checked herself.

"Is your sister, Jennie, fond of comic Valentines?" she asked, demurely. "I should have been angry, I must confess, if this one had been really meant for me."

"No," admitted Franklin, ruefully. "I'm afraid it isn't. I sent it out of spite. That's the worst part of it. But I've been paid back for my meanness."

If you won't tell her, she won't know anything about it. I promise you I'll never send another, as long as I live. I couldn't stand the strain on my nerves. I'm half crazy now."

Marcia laughed outright then, and Franklin knew that she had forgiven him.

"If you'll keep that promise," she said, "I'll never breathe a word to Jennie. I think comic Valentines are the most detestable, most unkind things that were ever invented. Don't you, Cousin Franklin?"

"Yes, I do," said Franklin, emphatically.

And she knew that he meant it.

Then Cousin Marcia tore her first Valentine into tiny fragments and scattered them to the winds.—Antony E. Anderson, in Golden Days.

## FOR VALENTINE'S DAY.

What though the skies be cold and gray  
And winds be wild and shrill,  
Love's messenger shall find his way  
Across the vale and bill.

For sunlight he shall have made me your face,  
For stars—two eyes that shine  
Where my heart beats its sweet place—  
Your own, dear Valentine!

He turns to neither left nor right,  
But straight ahead he goes;  
His guide is love, whose footstep light  
The surest pathway knows:

He hears my message in his scrip,  
A song whose every line  
Shall turn to music on your lip,  
My own dear Valentine!

Oh, when you hear his eager knock  
Upon the door begin,  
Make haste to lift the heavy lock  
And bid young Cupid in.

And glad his heart of mine  
To be at last with her I love—  
With you, dear Valentine!

Frank Dempster Sherman, in February Ladies' Home Journal.

## THE HOME CORNER.

All the smartest of the shirt waists this season will be made of checked gingham, and there will be scarcely an exception to the rule in favor of tucked bosoms, says an exchange. There is no monotony in the tucking, however.

One pretty blue waist will have fifteen fine tucks, forming on either side in front a pointed yoke, thus throwing considerable fullness over the bust. Another bosom is tucked in diamond shape, another laid in perpendicular plaits, wide or narrow, and then we have a change in the arrangement of buttons. Studs will be little used, for down the front clusters of three or five tiny pearl buttons are at intervals, sewed on very close together. These properly do not hold the fronts of the shirt together at all; a serviceable underband does that, while the pearl knobs are for decoration purely.

Shirt fronts will pouch just a wee bit; on many a sensible shirt the back is quite as elaborately tucked as the front, and cuffs and sleeves are in no salient points different from those worn last year.

Next after gingham, the typical woman's shirting of this season, in cotton goods, will be white and colored, widely corded pique. They have in the majority been made with three deep horizontal tucks across the full bosom, and are caught in front with three or four very broad white pearl buttons.

There are still some changes being made in the silk shirt waist. The newest comer in that line is a shirt of taffeta that opens only down the back. It is usually evolved from tempting bits of silky color found on some remnant counter, and buttoning up behind, it has a draw string about the waist which ties in front, and gives a full pouched bosom. A stiff, high, white linen collar is worn with such a shirt, but the necktie is apt to be a lengthy scarf of some pale tinted chiffon, with tucked and hemstitched ends, wound twice about the throat and knotted large and full in front.

It is the popular thing to make these little waists of striped silk or French flannel, letting the stripes run crosswise of the body and arranging the sleeves on the same model.

Concerning the mending of undergarments, a woman writes thus to the Ladies' Home Journal:

If the garments to be mended are of wool, take patches from the woolen knit goods or flannel, and instead of thread use fine wool yarn to sew with. When putting a patch on undergarments or hosiery, cut away all shreds and the parts that are worn very thin from about the hole; then cut the patch large enough not only to cover the hole but extend beyond the worst-worn parts to the firm strong goods. Place the patch smoothly over the hole on the wrong side of the garment, with the grain of the patch cornerwise—that is, with the threads of the patch running diagonally across the goods; then baste it in place and cross stitch down the edge; turn, and fasten the edge of the goods to the patch either by cross stitching very carefully with short, fine stitches, or by felling. A patch put on in this way will never be harsh nor pull.

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From the American Kitchen Magazine are selected the following recipes:

**Coffee Cream.**—To one cupful of strong hot coffee add one level tablespoonful of pulverized gelatine already softened in two tablespoonfuls of water, and when that is dissolved stir in one generous tablespoonful of sugar and a speck of salt. Strain into a shallow dish, and when it begins to thicken beat vigorously with a fork till light and frothy. Then gradually beat in one-half cupful of thick cream. Put in molds and serve when cold.

**Salt Fish Timbals.**—Freshen one cupful finely minced salt fish and mix with one-half cupful white sauce. To this add two well-beaten eggs, and season as desired. Pack in small molds and steam ten to twenty minutes. Turn from the molds and pour around them another half cupful of white sauce. This is a good way to use up fish already creamed. Fresh fish or canned salmon can be served in the same way.

**Cranberry Dimples.**—In a deep, smooth saucepan put one pint cranberries, one cupful of sugar and one cupful of water. Set over the fire and stir until the sugar is dissolved. Make a soft dough with one cupful of prepared flour and a scant half-cupful of milk. Drop by spoonfuls over the hot cranberry sauce. Cover closely and cook for ten minutes. Serve dimples and sauce together, hot.

This is The Ladies' Home ideal rule for cooking and carving a ham: Soak for a day in tepid water, and then place in a large saucepan with sufficient water to cover it. Add two blades of mace, half a dozen cloves, five long peppers, and three bay leaves. Simmer gently, allowing twenty minutes for every pound. When cooked, remove the pan from the fire and leave the meat in it until cold. Take up the ham, skin it, brush over with beaten egg, sprinkle brown bread crumbs over and set in a moderate oven to brown. Baste with the following mixture: Dissolve a tablespoonful of mustard in a gill of vinegar; add to this half a pound of powdered ginger and the same amount of powdered cloves. When brown take up and leave until cold. If the ham is to be served whole at the table, it should be trimmed neatly, the end of the bone covered with a paper ruffle and the dish garnished with radishes, olives and parsley. The thickest part of the ham should be at the further side of the platter. With a very sharp knife make an incision through the thickest part a little way from the smaller end. Shave off in very thin slices, cutting toward the larger end and down to the bone at every slice. Each slice should have a portion of the fat with the crisp crust.

To the cabbage was ascribed the happy power of preserving from drunkenness, and it was believed to be a cure for all diseases, says the Prairie Farmer. To wash the hands with a horseradish gave one the power to handle poisonous reptiles without danger. The garlic was a sovereign remedy for all diseases, while the narcotic virtues of lettuce early attracted the attention of physicians and was prescribed as a remedy for wakefulness. While some of these virtues have been proven imaginary, others are founded on facts, and we are told to-day that asparagus is a valuable kidney regulator, while tomatoes are of great assistance to a disordered liver. Spinach also has a direct effect on the kidneys, so has the common dandelion when cooked as greens. Celery acts upon the nervous system and is good for rheumatism and neuralgia. White onions eaten raw just before retiring will produce sleep.

The cellar in which vegetables are kept should be cool and dry; if damp or warm they will sprout. Carrots, parsnips, turnips, beets and cabbages keep better if covered with sand. Potatoes should be kept in the dark or they will have a bitter taste. Onions and squashes should be kept in a very dry room, and shelves are better than the floor.

All vegetables should be thoroughly washed before cooking and roots and tubers should be cleaned before paring; a vegetable brush, such as may be purchased at any furnishing store for five cents is very good for this purpose. Potatoes should be pared thinly. Many housekeepers think a single paring from end to end sufficient, the remainder of the jacket being pulled off after cooking. Turnips need a thick paring, as the white layer under the skin is tough and rather bitter; carrots, parsnips and salsify should be scraped; beet roots must not be cut before cooking or they lose their color; cauliflower should have some of the outer leaves trimmed off and then placed, head downward, in a bowl of cold, salted water for half an hour before cooking to draw out any insects which may have lodged among the flowerets.

A general rule for cooking vegetables is to cook all roots, tubers and dried vegetables in soft water and all green vegetables in hard (salted) water. The onion is the only exception to this rule, and it must be boiled in salted water or it loses its flavor. There is quite a knack in being able to properly cook vegetables, even potatoes, and many vegetables are made tasteless by being cooked in too much water, for example, green peas and string beans. The Germans use a spoonful of butter to begin with, add seasoning and the beans, freshly washed, then cover closely. The moisture remaining from the washing with one or two spoonfuls of water added later, is sufficient to keep them from burning, and they are served half an hour later tender and delicious.

Vegetables are not used for garnishing as much as they should be. What is so nice as a boiled fish, flanked on either side by pyramids of potato balls or diced red carrot sprinkled with finely chopped parsley; while a nice cut of beef may be served with a border of turnips, carrots and celery cut in straws.

As a rule we are very apt to imagine that if we take care of our complexions, hair, hands, arms and bodies the feet can take care of themselves. That is a great mistake, for a shapely foot is a thing of beauty, and it attended while we are young will give little trouble says the American Queen.

The first point to be considered are your boots, and remember it is just as bad for the feet to have them too loose as too tight. Either fault promotes corns, bunions, and swelled feet. At the same time I do not recommend the too long use of heelless shoes on girls, as in time it destroys the shapeliness of their feet. Rather select shoes with half-inch heels, a height that will not incommode in any way. Never wear your rubbers longer than is absolutely necessary, as they obstruct the passage of carbonic acid from the pores of the skin outward, and vice versa, thus engendering bad circulation. Bad circulation is always fatal to one's complexion, as well as the precursor of many serious diseases.

An old-fashioned but good remedy for those suffering from tender feet is to bathe them night and morning with hot hay tea. After these baths thoroughly dry the feet and dust them with pure starch powder. If the feet are swollen after a day's jaunt bathe them in a little alum or vinegar and water. When one suffers with cold feet a constant glow may be produced by lightly powdering them during the day with the following powder: One part flour of mustard to thirty parts starch. This is simple, perfectly harmless and perfectly effective.

Those persons suffering with perspiring feet, which, to say the least, is very uncomfortable, should bathe them every morning and evening with soda and water. About a teaspoonful of soda to a medium basin of water, afterward sponging with can de Cologne. When thoroughly dry dust with starch powder. More unpleasant still than perspiring feet are those which emit an objectionable odor. At all cost feet which do this must have immediate attention. Absolute cleanliness is essential, also daily bathing in sea salt and water, while between the toes may be painted daily with the following lotion: Distilled water, 200 grains; bichloride of potash, 30 grains; oil of lavender, 2 grains. Salt water is also highly recommended for strengthening weak ankles.

A charming art valentine is in the form of a fan, each stick bearing a stanza of an old-fashioned love lyric, says the Times. Another is a kite, to the tail of which cling several fat, pink cupid, a cloud of these diminutive mischief makers floating across the white surface of the kite itself. The verse which accompanies this flight of fancy is brief:

My love's a kite,  
I'll never take wing,  
Because, sweetheart,  
You hold the string.

In the centre of a wreath of rosebuds one reads:

One touch from you  
My heart will open wide,  
And my sweetheart  
You'll see inside.

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